

City of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Monday June 14, 2010

Attendees: Dave McGuire, Dan Poresky, Julie Thomases, Karen Tuerk, Tom Kerr, Andrew K., Pete Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:22 PM. The minutes for the March and May meetings were approved unanimously
2. South Mountain Reservoir Forest Management Plan – Dave reported that he and Andrew and approximately 50 others attended the meeting on June 10, 2010. Greg Wetzel and the Wildlands Conservatory were presenters. They indicated that there was no intent to cut the forest. At the meeting it was agreed that a committee would be formed to further the efforts. Andrew agreed to serve on that committee. A motion was passed unanimously to have Andrew represent the EAC on this committee. Dave indicated that he felt that the EAC should have been more involved with the development of the plan from the start. The EAC should help find citizens to serve on this committee.
3. A forum was held on June 10, 2010 to discuss Central Lehigh County Wastewater Treatment. The County, Allentown's Mayor, and the Lehigh County Authority all presented that there would be a shortage of wastewater treatment capacity if action was not taken soon. Dan, Julie, and Pete attended the meeting. At the meeting there were numerous alternatives presented which included upgrades to the existing Kline's Island Facility and the upgrade of the Lehigh County Pre-treatment plant to a full treatment facility. They also presented that there are problems in the conveyance system for the sewage flows. The Kline's Island facility is being upgraded now to help with the high wet weather flows which reach the treatment plant. There is also concern with the PADEP regulations concerning the requirement of higher levels of treatment and what effect that will have on the capacity of the system. The LCA is forming a committee and Pete Terry will look into how the EAC can be involved. The focus of this activity appears to be economic development.
4. Julie will continue working on preparing business cards for EAC members.
5. Julie is working on a description of serving on the EAC to help us recruit new members. We currently have one vacancy. Julie will distribute her revisions per email.
6. Any will organize and lead a two hour walking tour of the South Mountain Forest.
7. Tom discussed that Allentown will be applying for Growing Greener grant funding. Tom suggested that the EAC pass a motion in support of this program. He will bring more info to a future meeting.
8. Andrew indicated that he would attend the Natural Resource Inventory meeting on June 16, 2010 at Salisbury Township.
9. Peter Terry agreed to send out an updated copy of the bylaws so that we can see where we are with our progress. We discussed that at the next meeting we would take nominations from the floor and elect a vice chair for our committee.
10. Karen discussed the buffer signage for the parks. The signs will indicate a graphic of how the buffers will appear once completed. The design is nearly complete. Julie and Andrew will help with the text for the signs. Karen will work with Greg Wetzel to insure that the signs are erected where improvements will actually occur in the future.

11. Andrew indicated that he is working on four areas within the park where floodplain plantings will occur. The intent is to make a living/learning lab. He has a written description. He is also leading four volunteer efforts to remove invasive species. He will report on his efforts at the July meeting
12. Andrew is organizing a walk and litter pick-up in Jordan Park. He will contact local churches to find additional support. He stressed the need for additional trash and recycling containers in the park.
13. Tom Kerr indicated that Allentown is holding two events to promote energy efficiency and homeowner improvement funding availability.
14. Tom indicated that the Allentown website "green page" is nearly complete.
15. Julie indicated that there is concern over the environmental impacts of the rock fracturing methods being used to reach the natural gas reserves in the Macellus Shale formation. Andrew will work with her to develop a brochure providing more information. A similar brochure can be found at www.delawareriverkeepers.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectively submitted for comment – Pete Terry